

(11)Publication number:

2004-060697

(43)Date of publication of application: 26.02.2004

(51)Int.Cl.

F16C 11/10

(21)Application number : 2002-216737

(71)Applicant: YKM:KK

(22)Date of filing:

25.07.2002

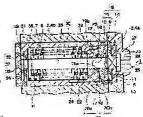
(72)Inventor: IINO MASASHI

(54) MULTISTAGE DEVELOPMENT HINGE DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a convenient multistage development hinge device for quickly developing with respect to a body a cover from a folded position, when closed, into a fully opened position, in use when opened to a maximum, and fixing and holding the cover at any position as desired by a user within a preset angle ranging from the fully opened position to the folded position.

SOLUTION: The hinge device comprises the body 2 and the cover 3 connected to each other in a foldable manner with at least a pair of connection portions 4a, 4b and a cam mechanism 21 as lock means for putting the cover 3 into the condition of being locked to the body 2 at the folded position. Free stop means is provided for allowing the cover 3 to be abruptly developed to the fully opened position when the locked condition at the folded position is released, and for stopping the cover 3 at any angle to the body 2 in the folding process at the fully opened position.



LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Copyright (C); 1998,2003 Japan Patent Office

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original nrecisely.

2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.

3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

It is hinge equipment equipped with a lock means by which a body and a lid will be in a stop condition in the location which was connected by the connection section of a pair free [folding] and folded up said lid to the body by it at least,

Multistage story expansion hinge equipment characterized by having the fleece top means which said lid can stop at an angle of arbitration to said body if it is in the stroke which said lid develops at a stretch to an open position, and folds up from this open position when the stop condition of said folded-up location is canceled.

[Claim 2] It is rotatable to the fixed part fixed to one connection section of said connection sections, and this fixed part, and is prepared on the same axle, and while energizing in the moving part which is stopped and is arranged in the hoop direction of the connection section of another side, and the direction which develops said lid, it has an energization means to energize so that shaft orientations may be made to estrange said moving part from said fixed part, Said fleece top means is in a stop condition by the location and open position which folded up said lid. Said lid is developed to said open position, the turning effort of which the stop condition of said lock means in the location which folded up said lid is canceled being smaller than the turning effort of which the stop condition of said fleece top means is canceled, and maintaining the stop condition of said fleece top means. The turning effort of which the stop condition of said fleece top means in the open position of said lid is canceled is smaller than the turning effort of which the stop condition of said lock means is canceled, and the stop condition of said lock means has been maintained. Multistage story expansion hinge equipment according to claim 1 characterized by folding up said lid.

Said fleece top means is multistage story expansion hinge equipment according to claim 1 or 2 which consists of the 1st cam which has the cam side which established the crevice in the flat surface, and the 2nd cam which prepared the heights which engage with said crevice, and is characterized by said heights sliding on said flat-surface top where engagement to said crevice is solved for said heights.

[Claim 4]

Said lock means is claim 1 characterized by constituting the cam mechanism which consists of a cam member of the pair which has the cam side where Yamabe and a trough are repeated along a hoop direction, and the grades of right and left of the cam side of said Yamabe and said trough differing thru/or multistage story expansion hinge equipment of any one publication of three.

Said energization means is multistage story expansion hinge equipment according to claim 4 which is a torsion coil spring and is characterized by being embedded at Yamabe of one [to which the end of this torsion coil spring touches this torsion coil spring / said] cam member.

While having the shank material which can insert in the shaft orientations of said fixed part, and

can be attached in rotation impossible and arranging said fleece top means, a lock means, and an energization means on this shank material Claim 2 characterized by having the engagement section which penetrates the wall surface of said moving part to the point of this shank material, and is arranged on the outside of said moving part, and with which it escapes and a stop member can engage thru/or multistage story expansion hinge equipment of any one publication of five.

Multistage story expansion hinge equipment according to claim 6 characterized by inserting the other end of said torsion coil spring in the point of said shank material.

Multistage story expansion hinge equipment according to claim 6 or 7 characterized by preparing said engagement projection from which it escapes, and by which a design cap is attached in a stop member.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original

2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.

3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

While maintaining the condition of having folded up the body and the lid especially about the hinge connected possible [expansion and folding], it can be made to develop by easy actuation, and this invention relates to the multistage story expansion equipment which can hold a lid at the include angle of arbitration to a body after that.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

Like the receiver section of a cellular phone, and the transmission section, the goods which connected the body and the lid using the hinge possible [expansion and folding] are known. Kamiichi of what maintains as such goods where a body and a lid are folded up in recent years, and can develop a lid by the easy actuation at the time of use, and the thing which can hold the expansion include angle of the lid to a body in arbitrary locations is carried out.

[0003]

Among these, by collecting the function to maintain the condition of having folded up, as a suitable hinge for the goods which can develop a lid by easy actuation, and the function which can be developed by easy actuation to one shank material, it considers as the hinge miniaturized while making manufacture easy, and the hinge unit indicated by JP,10-246222,A is known.

 $\underline{\text{Drawing 5}}$ is a side elevation in the condition (condition which the lid closed) of the conventional hinge unit having been shown and having folded up the lid on the body. Drawing 6 is a side elevation in the condition of the conventional hinge unit having been shown and having opened the lid to the middle. Drawing 7 is a side elevation in the condition of the conventional hinge unit having been shown and having opened the lid to the open position.

[0005] As shown in drawing 5, in the condition that Lid C has closed, trough 42b of the cam side 42 of the 2nd cam object 41 does not gear with top 42a of the cam side 42 of the 1st cam object 40, and the cam side 42 and 42 comrades continue and are not in contact with the whole surface. That is, the 1st cam object 40 was pushed on the 2nd cam object 41 energized with the compression coil spring 43, rotated as a core in the direction of arrow-head F, has the shaft 44 to it, and is pressing Lid C on Body B. For this reason, there is no lid C with Lycium chinense with backlash, it can cover some bodies B, and does not open Lid C as for reverse.

[0000]

As shown in drawing 6, if the energization force of a compression coil spring 43 is resisted in the direction of arrow-head M and Lid C is made to open wide to it, as the 2nd cam object 41 is pushed on the 1st cam object 40, it will be put back to the method of the back of a stowage 45 by the function of the cam side 42. And it is made to open wide to the location which top 42a of the cam side 42 of the 1st cam object 40 and the 2nd cam object 41 and 42a poke mutually. [0007]

From this location, if Lid C is made to open wide a little in the direction of arrow-head M, top

42a of the cam side 42 will be slippery, and Lid C will open in nature and the direction of M. That is, the migration force to the shaft orientations of the 2nd cam object 41 pushed according to the energization force of a compression coil spring 43 is changed into the turning effort of the 1st cam object 40 by the function of the cam side 42. And Lid C stops in the cam side 42 and the condition that 42 comrades continue and contact the whole surface, as shown in drawing 7. [8000]

Thus, in the hinge unit 46 which can develop Lid C by the easy conventional actuation, the hinge unit 46 serves as a compact design by forming the cam side 42 in the abutting surface of the 1st cam object 40 and the 2nd cam object 41, respectively.

Moreover, the hinge equipment indicated by JP,2002-155926,A is known as a suitable hinge for the goods which can hold the angle of nip of a body and a lid at the include angle of arbitration.

[0010] Drawing 8 is the top view of the hinge equipment which made the attachment section of conventional hinge equipment the cross section, some hinge equipments with which drawing 9 made the attachment section of conventional hinge equipment the cross section — it is a cross-section front view. Drawing 10 is the top view having shown the fleece top condition which made the attachment section of conventional hinge equipment the cross section. [0011]

The fixed cam 52 by which this hinge equipment 50 was formed in the end section of a shaft 51 and this shaft 51 at one, The slide cam 53 attached in shaft orientations possible [sliding] and pivotable to the shaft 51, The cam mechanism 54 prepared in the mutual opposed face of this slide cam 53 and the fixed cam 52, The case object 55 with a baffle attached pivotable, making rotation of the slide cam 53 restrain to a shaft 51, In order to carry out the pressure welding of the slide cam 53 to the stop means by the stop ring 56 which stops so that it may escape from this case object 55 from a shaft 51 and may not come out to the fixed cam 52 side It has an elastic means by the compression spring 57 installed elastically between the case object 55 and the slide cam 53, carrying out a ring volume to a shaft 51. A cam mechanism 54 It consists of the crevices 58 and heights 59 which carry out pressure-welding fitting mutually, and these each crevice 58 and heights 59 have mutually a crevice 58 or heights 59, the crownings 59a and 59a that ****, and partes basilaris ossis occipitalis 58b and 58b.

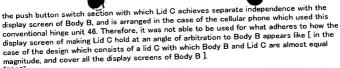
therefore, it was what is especially alike and may be adopted with little easy configuration of a component part as a hinge for closing motion of portable 2 chip-box type telephone since the small hinge equipment 50 which can suspend stably the body B of a fixed side and the lid C of a movable side which are opened and closed relatively at an angle of arbitration from a predetermined closing motion include angle (this is called fleece top.) can be offered.

[0013] [Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

However, the hinge unit 46 which can develop the lid C mentioned above by one-touch control is presenting the same configuration which the cam side 42 currently formed in the abutting surface of the 1st cam object 40 and the 2nd cam object 41 becomes from trough 42b arranged two places at equal intervals in the hoop direction, and top 42a. And in the state of the close bypass bulb completely which Lid C has closed, trough 42b of the cam side 42 of the 2nd cam object 41 does not gear with top 42a of the cam side 42 of the 1st cam object 40, cam side 42 comrades cover the whole surface, and the halt location of Lid C has not contacted. Moreover, when Lid f C is an open position, the motion by the 1st cam object 40 and the 2nd cam object 41 stops in the location which top 42a of the cam side 42 of the 1st cam object 40 and the 2nd cam object 41 and 42a poke mutually.

[0014]

That is, since the configuration of the cam side 42 of the 1st cam object 40 and the 2nd cam object 41 is formed as what stops Lid C in a close by-pass bulb completely or the location of an alternative of full open, the expansion include angle of the lid C to Body B cannot be stopped in the location of arbitration. Therefore, it is limited to the application of using it as covering of only



[0015] Moreover, the hinge equipment 50 which can hold the expansion include angle of the lid C to the body B mentioned above in the location of arbitration Since the cam mechanism 54 consists of the crevices 58 and heights 59 which carry out pressure-welding fitting mutually and these each crevice 58 and heights 59 have mutually a crevice 58 or heights 59, the crownings 59a and 59a that ****, and partes basilaris ossis occipitalis 58b and 58b, In the condition (the angle of nip of Body B and Lid C is 20-150 degrees) that top 59a of the slide cam 53 touches top 59a of the fixed cam 52, also when opening Lid C and closing, it is unchanging, and it will be in the fleece top condition which Lid C can stop at an angle of arbitration to Body B.

Therefore, in the cellular phone which used this conventional hinge equipment 50, in spite of using it mostly in an anticipated-use condition, such as a message, in the location of full open, in order to open to an open position, actuation of opening Lid C with a help against the fleece top's halt force was needed, and there was a problem that handling was troublesome.

Then, if it folds up, and the lid of a busy condition can develop from a condition quickly to the open position which the lid closed to the body and which was opened to max, and this invention folds up from an open position that the above-mentioned problem should solve and is in the predetermined include angle of a before [a location], it makes it a technical problem to offer the user-friendly multistage story expansion equipment which can hold a lid by fixing in the location

of arbitration in a user's favorite location.

[0018]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

That the above technical problems should be solved invention according to claim 1 A body and a lid are connected by the connection section of a pair free [folding] at least. It is hinge equipment equipped with the lock means which will be in a stop condition in the location which folded up said lid to the body. If said lid is in the stroke which develops at a stretch to an open position, and is folded up from this open position when the stop condition of said folded-up location is canceled, it is characterized by having the fleece top means which said lid can stop at an angle of arbitration to said body.

Invention according to claim 2 in a configuration according to claim 1 In addition, the fixed part fixed to one connection section of said connection sections, With the moving part which is rotatable to this fixed part, is prepared on the same axle, and is stopped and is arranged in the hoop direction of the connection section of another side It has an energization means to energize so that shaft orientations may be made to estrange said moving part from said fixed part, while energizing in the direction which develops said lid. Said fleece top means It is in a stop condition by the location and open position which folded up said lid. Said lid is developed to said open position, the turning effort of which the stop condition of said lock means in the location which folded up said lid is canceled being smaller than the turning effort of which the stop condition of said fleece top means is canceled, and maintaining the stop condition of said fleece top means. It is characterized by folding up said lid, the turning effort of which the stop condition of said fleece top means in the open position of said lid is canceled being smaller than the turning effort of which the stop condition of said lock means is canceled, and maintaining the stop condition of said lock means.

In addition to the configuration according to claim 1 or 2, said fleece top means consists of the 1st cam which has the cam side which established the crevice in the flat surface, and the 2nd

cam which prepared the heights which engage with said crevice, and where engagement to said crevice is solved for said heights, as for invention according to claim 3, said heights are characterized by sliding on said flat-surface top.

invention according to claim 4 — the configuration of claim 1 thru/or any one publication of three — in addition, said lock means constitutes the cam mechanism which consists of a cam member of the pair which has the cam side where Yamabe and a trough are repeated along a hoop direction, and is characterized by the grades of right and left of the cam side of said Yamabe and said trough differing.

Invention according to claim 5 is characterized by being embedded at Yamabe of one [to which the end of said torsion coil spring touches this torsion coil spring / said] cam member in addition to a configuration according to claim 4.

Invention according to claim 6 is added to claim 2 thru/or any one configuration of 5. While having the shank material which can insert in the shaft orientations of said fixed part, and can be attached in rotation impossible and arranging said fleece top means, a lock means, and an energization means on this shank material It is characterized by having the engagement section which penetrates the wall surface of said moving part to the point of this shank material, and is arranged on the outside of said moving part and with which it escapes and a stop member can engage.

[0024] In addition to the configuration of claim 6, invention according to claim 7 is characterized by inserting the other end of said torsion coil spring in the point of said shank material.

In addition to claim 6 or the configuration of 7, invention according to claim 8 is characterized by preparing said engagement projection from which it escapes and by which a design cap is attached in a stop member.

[0026]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

Hereafter, although the gestalt of implementation of this invention is explained according to a drawing, this invention is not limited to the gestalt of this operation.

The gestalt of operation concerning the multistage story expansion hinge equipment of this invention is shown in drawing 1 thru/or 4.

[0028]

Drawing 1 is drawing of longitudinal section at the time of applying the gestalt of operation concerning the multistage story expansion hinge equipment of this invention to a cellular phone.

In the case of the cellular phone, the transmission section is equivalent to a body 2, and the receiver section is equivalent to a lid 3, and is connected by the body 2 and the lid 3 free [folding / sections / 4a and 4b / of a pair / connection] at least.

[0030]

The moving part 6 in the condition of it having been rotatable to the fixed part 5, and having been prepared on the same axle at connection section 4b of another side by fixing the fixed part 5 of multistage story expansion hinge equipment 1, and having been stopped in the hoop direction is arranged in one connection section 4a of the connection sections 4a and 4b. [0031]

Moreover, to multistage story expansion hinge equipment 1, while energizing in the direction which develops a lid 3, it has an energization means to energize so that shaft orientations may be made to estrange moving part 6 from a fixed part 5. It specifically twists as an energization means and the coil spring 7 is used, and in order to heighten the holding power of a fleece top means to mention later, or a lock means, the compression spring 8 is used together as the assistance.



Between a fixed part 5 and moving part 6, the free stop cam 15 which consists of the 1st approximate circle tabular cam 12 which has the cam side 11 which established the crevice 10 in the flat surface 9, and the 2nd approximate circle tabular cam 14 which formed the heights 13 which engage with a crevice 10 is formed. Where engagement to the crevice 10 of the 1st cam 12 is canceled for the heights 13 of the 2nd cam 14, heights 13 slide on a flat-surface 9 top, and since the 1st cam 12 and the 2nd cam 14 twist this free stop cam 15 and it is in a pressurewelding condition mutually by the coil spring 7 or the compression spring 8, in this condition, frictional force generates it between the 1st cam 12 and the 2nd cam 14. Therefore, unless the turning effort which resists this frictional force acts on the 1st cam 12 or the 2nd cam 14, a condition as it is will be maintained. That is, it twists with the 1st cam 12 and the 2nd cam 14, and a fleece top means by which the lid 3 was equipped with the fleece top function which can be held at an angle of arbitration to a body 2 with the coil spring 7 consists of the sections when the heights 13 of the 2nd cam 14 slide on the flat-surface 9 top of the 1st cam 12. [0033]

The 1st cam 12 and the 2nd cam 14 are the important functional parts for realizing the fleece top, and in order to maintain the quality, it is desirable for both abrasion resistance to be high. Therefore, in order to realize the miniaturization and abrasion resistance as multistage story expansion hinge equipment 1, it is desirable to manufacture the 1st cam 12 and the 2nd cam 14 with metals, such as stainless steel which can fabricate a crevice 10 and heights 13 to the body and one, and it may adopt ceramic mold goods etc. instead of a metal.

[0034]

A lock means to hold a stop condition by the location folded up so that the lid 3 other than a fleece top means might lap with a body 2, and the open position is formed in multistage story expansion hinge equipment 1.

[0035]

With the gestalt of the illustrated operation, the cam mechanism 21 which consists of cam members 20a and 20b of the approximate circle column-like pair which has the cam sides 19a and 19b where Yamabe 17 and a trough 18 are repeated along a hoop direction as a lock means is used. And the grades differ by the right and left, and he is trying for the cam sides 19a and 19b of Yamabe 17 and a trough 18 to give a difference to a turning effort required in order to cancel engagement of the cam members 20a and 20b of a pair by the RLC and the RRC. And cam side 19a with the sudden grade is used when holding the stop condition of the location which folded up the lid 3 with which the energization force of the turning effort of the torsion coil spring 7 serves as max. Cam side 19b with the loose grade is using it, when holding the stop condition of the open position of a lid 3 the energization force of the hand of cut of the torsion coil spring 7 serving as min. It becomes possible to twist with a turning effort required to cancel the stop condition in each location, and to adjust balance with the energization force of the turning effort by the coil spring 7.

[0036]

That is, it is used when holding the stop condition of the location which folded up the lid 3 with which cam side 19a with the sudden grade is twisted, and the energization force of the turning effort of a coil spring 7 serves as max. By using it, when holding the stop condition of lid 3 open position that twist cam side 19b with the loose grade, and the energization force of the hand of cut of a coil spring 7 serves as min It twists with a turning effort required to cancel the stop condition in each location, and becomes easy to balance the energization force of the turning effort by the coil spring 7.

[0037]

Moving part 6 is doing approximate circle tubed, the guide rail 23 with the piece 22 of a guide movable to shaft orientations prepared in the periphery section of one cam member 20a is formed in the inside, and the torsion coil spring 7 and the compression spring 8 are held. Moreover, the 1st cam member 12 fits into the cam sides 19a and 19b and the opposite side of cam member 20b of another side, it is unified, and cam member 20b of another side and the 1st cam member 12 carry out the same rotation to the shank material 30.



The end 24 of the torsion coil spring 7 is attached so that while may touch the torsion coil spring 7 and the hole 25 established in Yamabe 17 of cam member 20a may be entered, and the energization force of a hand of cut commits it to one cam member 20a at the same time it realizes space-saving.

The fixed part 5 is carrying out approximate circle tabular with a square hole 26 in the center, the 2nd cam 14 fits into one field, and is united with it, and the piece 27 of an elastic stop for attaching in connection section 4a of a body 2 protrudes on the field of another side.

so, in assembling multistage story expansion hinge equipment 1 The substantially rod-shaped shank material 30 which has the engagement section 29 whose diameter has a flange 28 at the end and was reduced to the other end and to carry out The engagement section 29 side is inserted from the piece 27 side of an elastic stop of a fixed part 5. The 2nd cam 14, the 1st cam 12, cam member 20b of another side, What is necessary is to penetrate one cam member 20a, the torsion coil spring 7, and a compression spring 8, to make the wall surface 31 of moving part 6 penetrate finally, to escape in the engagement section 29 projected on the outside of this wall surface 31, and just to make the stop member 32 engaged. The engagement projection 34 is formed in the periphery so that the design cap 33 which falls out and constitutes a part of appearance of a cellular phone in the stop member 32 may be attached.

[0041]

The prism section 35 which follows a flange 28 is formed in the shank material 30, and it has the cylinder section 36 used as the revolving shaft of cam member 20b of the 1st cam 12 which follows this prism section 35, and another side, and one cam member 20a. Moreover, the slot 37 penetrated in the diameter direction of the cylinder section 34 which followed the point of the cylinder section 36 to the location by the side of a flange 28 more slightly than the engagement section 29 is formed. The other end 38 of the torsion coil spring 7 with which the end 22 was embedded at Yamabe 17 of one cam member 20a is inserted in this slot 37, and the energization force of a hand of cut can be given now to one cam member 20a and moving part 6 to a fixed part 5.

The free stop cam 15 maintains a stop condition by the location and open position which folded up the lid 3, and the turning effort of which the stop condition of the cam mechanism 21 as a lock means in the location which folded up the lid 3 is canceled is designed smaller than the turning effort of which the stop condition of the free stop cam 15 is canceled. In case this develops a lid 3 from the folded-up location to an open position, a lid 3 is developed to an open position, with the stop condition of the free stop cam 15 maintained. Moreover, the turning effort of which the stop condition of the free stop cam 15 in the open position of a lid 3 is canceled is designed smaller than the turning effort of which the stop condition of the cam mechanism 21 as a lock means is canceled. It returns to the folded-up location where a lid 3 laps with a body 2 by this, with the stop condition of a cam mechanism 21 maintained.

Hereafter, the operation of the multistage story expansion hinge equipment 1 concerning the gestalt of implementation of this invention is explained.

[0044]

In being the cellular phone with which multistage story expansion hinge equipment 1 was incorporated When the stop condition of the cam mechanism 21 of the location which applied and folded up the turning effort of the direction developed to the lid 3 which is the receiver section is canceled Twist at the same time it resists the energization force of the shaft orientations of the torsion coil spring 7 and Yamabe 17 of the cam members 20a and 20b slips out of a trough 18, and the cam members 20a and 20b rotate according to the energization force of the hand of cut of a coil spring 7. It enters into the trough 18 to which Yamabe 17 of the cam members 20a and 20b is mostly located in the opposite side, and a cam mechanism 21 will be in a stop condition again by things. The lid 3 which was in the folded-up location by this will be



developed at a stretch to an open position.

and when the turning effort of the direction which folds up a lid 3 from an open position is applied The stop condition of a cam mechanism 21 is maintained in this stroke to fold up. Although the energization force of the shaft orientations of the torsion coil spring 7 is resisted, the heights 13 of the 2nd cam 14 secede from the crevice 10 of the 1st cam 12 of the free stop cam 15 and the heights 13 of the 2nd cam 14 slide on the flat-surface 9 top of the 1st cam 12 Since the 1st cam 12 and the 2nd cam 14 are in a pressure-welding condition mutually with the energization means 7 in this condition, The condition is a lid stops in the part which canceled the turning effort of the direction which folds up a lid 3 according to the frictional force committed between the 1st cam 12 and the 2nd cam 14, and is held (fleece top).

Furthermore, if a lid 3 is folded up from this condition, the location which resisted the energization force of the hand of cut of the torsion coil spring 7, and the lid 3 folded up will be approached. It twists just before the folded-up location, the heights 13 of the 2nd cam 14 engage with the crevice 10 of the 1st cam 12 of the free stop cam 15 according to the energization force of the shaft orientations of a coil spring 7, and the free stop cam 15 will be in a stop condition. It will be in the folding condition to which the lid 3 which is the receiver section lapped with the body 2 which is the transmission section. In the folded-up location with which this laps the lid 3 which is the receiver section to the body 2 which is the transmission section, unless the turning effort of the direction which develops the lid 3 which is the receiver section which cancels the stop condition of the cam mechanism 21 as a lock means acts, the lid 3 which is the receiver section cannot be opened and can hold the condition.

In addition, although it considered as the structure of giving the turning effort which hangs a finger on some lids 3 and goes in the expansion direction centering on the axial center of multistage story expansion hinge equipment 1, with the gestalt of operation mentioned above when a lid 3 was developed in order to make expansion actuation easy more, the push button (not shown) it was made to jut out over the shaft orientations of multistage story expansion hinge equipment 1 is formed and set in the location folded up beforehand. When developing a lid 3, it is also possible to add the lock discharge device by the one-touch control of canceling a lock means by stuffing this push button into shaft orientations.

Furthermore, although the gestalt of operation mentioned above explained the example of a cellular phone as a thing incorporating multistage story expansion hinge equipment 1, if it is the goods with which not only a cellular phone but a body and a lid are connected possible [expansion], naturally it is possible for this invention to be applicable similarly.

[0049]

[Effect of the Invention]

As explained above, when the stop condition of the folded-up location is canceled according to invention according to claim 1, a lid develops at a stretch to an open position. Since it has the fleece top means which a lid can stop at an angle of arbitration to a body if it is in the stroke folded up from this open position Since [which fixes a lid in the location of arbitration if it folds up, and the lid of a busy condition can develop from a condition quickly to the open position which the lid closed to the body, and which was opened to max, it folds up from an open position and it is in the predetermined include angle of a before / a location] things can be carried out, Since a lid can be held in the favorite location of users other than an open position, the userfriendly multistage story expansion equipment for a user can be offered.

According to invention according to claim 2, a fleece top means It is in a stop condition by the location and open position which folded up the lid. A lid is developed to an open position, the turning effort of which the stop condition of the lock means in the location which folded up the lid is canceled being smaller than the turning effort of which the stop condition of a fleece top means is canceled, and maintaining the stop condition of a fleece top means. Since a lid is folded up the turning effort of which the stop condition of the fleece top means in the open position of a lid is canceled being smaller than the turning effort of which the stop condition of a lock means is canceled, and maintaining the stop condition of a lock means It works, only when the fleece top function of a fleece top means folds up a lid. In the condition of folding up the lid, since the stop condition of a lock means is maintained and it becomes things unless the external force which is going to develop a lid compulsorily is added, in addition to the effectiveness of claim 1, the rational multistage story expansion hinge equipment which does not need useless actuation can be offered.

According to invention according to claim 3, a fleece top means consists of the 1st cam which has the cam side which established the crevice in the flat surface, and the 2nd cam which prepared the heights which engage with a crevice, and since heights slide on a flat-surface top where engagement to a crevice is solved for heights, in addition to claim 1 or the effectiveness of 2, a fleece top function can be realized in few tooth spaces.

According to invention according to claim 4, a lock means Since the cam mechanism which consists of a cam member of the pair which has the cam side where Yamabe and a trough are repeated along a hoop direction is constituted and the grades of right and left of the cam side of Yamabe and a trough differ Since turning effort required to cancel the stop condition of a lock means in a hand of cut on either side differs It is used when holding the stop condition of the location which folded up the lid with which the cam side where the grade is steep is twisted, and the energization force of the turning effort of a coil spring serves as max. By using it, when holding the stop condition of lid 3 open position that twist the cam side where the grade is loose and the energization force of the hand of cut of a coil spring serves as min in addition to claim 1 thru/or the effectiveness of any one publication of three, it twists with a turning effort required to cancel the stop condition in each location, and becomes easy to balance the energization force of the turning effort by the coil spring.

Since according to invention according to claim 5 an energization means is a torsion coil spring and it is not necessary to prepare the space where the end of this torsion coil spring is new in order to realize structure of giving the energization force rotated to one cam member since while touches this torsion coil spring and it is embedded at Yamabe of a cam member, in addition to effectiveness according to claim 4, the further miniaturization of multistage story expansion hinge equipment is realizable.

While according to invention according to claim 6 having the shank material which can insert in the shaft orientations of a fixed part, and can be attached in rotation impossible and arranging a fleece top means, a lock means, and an energization means on this shank material Since it has the engagement section which the point of this shank material penetrates the wall surface of moving part, and is arranged on the outside of moving part and with which it escapes and a stop member can engage and can assemble one by one from an one direction, in addition to claim 2 thru/or the effectiveness of any one publication of five, assembly will become easy.

[0055]

According to invention according to claim 7, since the other end of a torsion coil spring is inserted in the point of shank material and it is not necessary to prepare the new space for attaching the other end of a torsion coil spring, in addition to effectiveness according to claim 6, the further miniaturization of multistage story expansion hinge equipment is realizable.

Since the engagement projection from which it escapes and by which a design cap is attached in a stop member is prepared according to invention according to claim 8 and attachment of a design cap will also become easy, also when it includes in bodies of a device, such as a cellular phone, in addition to effectiveness according to claim 6 or 7, there is no sense of incongruity in design.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is drawing of longitudinal section at the time of applying the gestalt of operation concerning the multistage story expansion hinge equipment of this invention to a cellular phone. [Drawing 2] the gestalt of this operation was decomposed — it is the front view of a cross

[Drawing 3] It is the decomposition perspective view which looked at the gestalt of this operation from the fixed part side.

[Drawing 4] It is the decomposition perspective view which looked at the gestalt of this operation from the moving-part side.

[Drawing 5] It is a side elevation in the condition (condition which the lid closed) of the conventional hinge unit having been shown and having folded up the lid on the body. [Drawing 6] It is a side elevation in the condition of this hinge unit having been shown and having

opened the lid to the middle. [Drawing 7] It is a side elevation in the condition of this hinge unit having been shown and having opened the lid to the open position.

[Drawing 8] It is the top view of the hinge equipment which made the attachment section of

conventional hinge equipment the cross section. [Drawing 9] some hinge equipments which made the attachment section of this hinge equipment the cross section — it is a cross-section front view.

[Drawing 10] It is the top view having shown the fleece top condition which made the attachment section of this hinge equipment the cross section.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Multistage Story Expansion Hinge Equipment
- 2 Body
- 3 Lid 4a and 4b Connection section
- 5 Fixed Part
- 6 Moving Part
- 7 Torsion Coil Spring (Energization Means)
- 8 Compression Spring
- 9 Flat Surface
- 10 Crevice
- 11 Cam Side
- 12 1st Cam
- 13 Heights
- 14 2nd Cam
- 15 Free Stop Cam
- 17 Yamabe
- 18 Trough
- 19a The cam side where the grade is steep
- 19b The cam side where the grade is loose
- 20a One cam member
- 20b The cam member of another side
- 21 Cam Mechanism (Lock Means)
- 22 Piece of Guide
- 23 Guide Rail
- 24 End of Torsion Coil Spring
- 25 Hole
- 27 Piece of Elastic Stop
- 28 Flange
- 29 Engagement Section
- 30 Shank Material
- 31 Wall Surface
- 32 Escape and it is Stop Member.
- 33 Design Cap



34 Engagement Projection

37 Slot

38 Other End of Torsion Coil Spring

[Translation done.]



(19) 日本国特許厅(JP)

(12)公開特許公報(A)

(11)特許出願公開番号 特闘2004-60697 (P2004-60697A)

(43) 公開日 平成16年2月26日 (2004.2.26)

(51) Int.C1.7 F16C 11/10 F J

F16C II/I0

C

テーマコード (参考) 3 J 1 O 5

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 8 〇L (全 12 頁)

(21) 出願番号 (22) 出願日

特願2002-216737 (P2002-216737) 平成14年7月25日 (2002. 7.25)

(71) 出願人 502269826

株式会社ワイケイエム

埼玉県久喜市東二丁目20番2号

(74)代理人 100104776

弁理士 佐野 弘 (72) 発明者 飯野 政志

埼玉県久喜市東二丁目20番2号 株式会 社ワイケイエム内

Fターム(参考) 3J105 AA02 AA03 AA12 AB22 AB24

ACO7 DA15 DA23

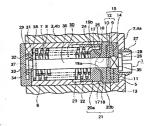
(54) [発明の名称] 多段階展開ヒンジ装置

(57)【要約】

[課題] 本体に対して蓋体が閉じた折り畳み状態から使 用状態の蓋体が最大に開いた全開位置に迅速に展開でき 、全開位置から折り畳み位置までの間の所定角度内にあ っては蓋体を任意の位置で固定することで使用者の好み の位置で保持できる、使い勝手のよい多段階展開装置を 提供する。

[解決手段] 本体2と蓋体3とが少なくとも一対の連結 部4a,4bによって折り畳み自在に連結され、蓋体3 を本体2に対して折り畳んだ位置で係止状態となるロッ ク手段としてのカム機構21を備えたヒンジ装置であっ て、折り畳んだ位置の係止状態を解除した場合に蓋体3 が全開位置まで一気に展開し、該全開位置から折り畳む 行程にあっては蓋体3が本体2に対して任意の角度で停 止できるフリーストップ手段を設ける。

「選択図】 図1



【特許請求の範囲】

本体と蓋体とが少なくとも一対の連結部によって折り畳み自在に連結され、前記蓋体を本 体に対して折り畳んだ位置で保止状態となるロック手段を備えたヒンジ装置であって、 前記折り畳んだ位置の係止状態を解除した場合に前記蓋体が全開位置まで一気に展開し、 該全開位置から折り畳む行程にあっては前記蓋体が前記本体に対して任意の角度で停止で きるフリーストップ手段を有することを特徴とする多段階展開ヒンジ装置。

前記連結部のいずれか一方の連結部に固定される固定部と、該固定部に回動可能で同軸上 に設けられ、かつ他方の連結部の周方向に係止されて配設される可動部と、前記蓋体を展 10 開させる方向に付勢すると共に前記可動部を前記固定部から軸方向に離問させるように付

前記フリーストップ手段は、前記蓋体を折り畳んだ位置と全開位置とで係止状態にあり、 前記蓋体を折り畳んだ位置における前記ロック手段の係止状態を解除する回転力が前記フ リーストップ手段の係止状態を解除する回転力よりも小さくて前記フリーストップ手段の 係止状態を維持したまま前記蓋体が前記全開位置まで展開され、前記蓋体の全開位置にお ける前記フリーストップ手段の保止状態を解除する回転力が前記ロック手段の保止状態を 解除する回転力よりも小さくて前記ロック手段の係止状態を維持したまま前記蓋体が折り 畳まれることを特徴とする請求項1に記載の多段階展開ヒンジ装置。

前記フリーストップ手段は、平面に凹部を設けたカム面を有する第1カムと、前記凹部と 係合する凸部を設けた第2カムとで構成され、前記凸部が前記凹部との係合が解かれた状 態では前記凸部が前記平面上を摺動することを特徴とする請求項1又は2に記載の多段階 展開ヒンジ装置。

前記ロック手段は、周方向に沿って山部と谷部とが繰り返されるカム面を有する一対のカ ム部材からなるカム機構を構成し、前記山部及び前記谷部のカム面の左右の傾斜度が異な ることを特徴とする請求項1乃至3のいずれか1つに記載の多段階展開ヒンジ装置。

前記付勢手段はねじりコイルバネであって、該ねじりコイルバネの一端が該ねじりコイル 30 パネに接する前記一方のカム部材の山部に埋め込まれていることを特徴とする請求項4に 記載の多段階展開ヒンジ装置。

前記固定部の軸方向に挿入可能でかつ回転不能に取り付けることのできる軸部材を有し、 該軸部材上に前記フリーストップ手段、ロック手段及び付勢手段を配置すると共に、該軸 部材の先端部には前記可動部の壁面を貫通して前記可動部の外側に配置される抜け止め部 材が保合できる保合部を有していることを特徴とする請求項2乃至5のいずれか1つに記 載の多段階展開ヒンジ装置。

前記ねじりコイルバネの他端が前記軸部材の先端部に挿入されていることを特徴とする請 40 求項6に記載の多段階展開センジ装置。

前記抜け止め部材には、意匠キャップが取り付けられる係合突起が設けられていることを 特徴とする請求項6又は7に記載の多段階展開ヒンジ装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】 この発明は、本体と蓋体とを展開及び折り畳み可能に連結するヒンジに関し、特に、折り 畳んだ状態を維持すると共に簡単な操作で展開させることができ、その後、蓋体を本体に 対して任意の角度に保持できる多段階展開装置に関するものである。

20

[0002]

携帯電話の受話部及び送話部のように、本体及び蓋体とを展開及び折り畳み可能にヒンジ を用いて連結した物品が知られている。このような物品として、近年、本体及び蓋体を祈 り畳んだ状態で維持し、使用時に簡単な操作で蓋体を展開できるものと、本体に対する蓋 体の展開角度を任意な位置に保持できるものとが上市されている。

このうち、簡単な操作で蓋体を展開できる物品に好適なヒンジとして、折り畳んだ状態を 維持する機能と簡単な操作で展開できる機能とを一本の軸部材に集約することにより、製 造を容易にすると共に小型化したヒンジとして、特開平10-246222号公報に記載 10 されたヒンジユニットが知られている。

図5は、従来のヒンジユニットを示したものであり、蓋体を本体に折り畳んだ状態(蓋体 が閉じた状態)の側面図である。図6は、従来のヒンジユニットを示したものであり、蓋 体を途中まで開いた状態の側面図である。図7は、従来のヒンジユニットを示したもので あり、蓋体を全開位置まで開いた状態の側面図である。

図5に示したように、蓋体Cが閉じている状態では、第1カム体40のカム面42の頂部 42aと、第2カム体41のカム面42の谷部42bとが、噛み合っておらず、カム面4 2, 42同士が全面に亘って当接していない。すなわち、第1カム体40は、圧縮コイル 20 ばね43で付勢された第2カム体41に押されて、矢印F方向へシャフト44を中心とし て回転しようしており、蓋体Cを本体Bに押圧している。このため、蓋体Cは、ガタ付く ことなく本体Bの一部をカパーすることができ、蓋体Cを逆さにしても開放しない。

図6に示したように、矢印M方向へ蓋体Cを、圧縮コイルばね43の付勢力に抗して開放 させると、カム面42の機能によって、第2カム体41が第1カム体40に押されるよう にして、収納部45の奥方へ押し戻される。そして、第1カム体40及び第2カム体41 のカム面42の頂部42a,42a同士が突き合う位置まで開放させる。

この位置から、蓋体Cを矢印M方向へ若干開放させると、カム面42の頂部42aが滑っ 30 て、蓋体Cが自然とM方向に開放する。すなわち、カム面42の機能によって、圧縮コイ ルばね43の付勢力によって押される第2カム体41の軸方向への移動力が、第1カム体 40の回転力に変換される。そして、蓋体Cは、図7に示すように、カム面42,42同 士が全面に亘って当接する状態で停止する。

このように、従来の簡単な操作で蓋体Cを展開できるヒンジユニット46では、第1カム 体40と第2カム体41との突き合わせ面にカム面42をそれぞれ形成することで、ヒン ジユニット46はコンパクトな設計となっている。

また、本体と蓋体との挟角を任意の角度に保持できる物品に好適なヒンジとしては、特開 40 2002-155926号公報に記載されたヒンジ装置が知られている。

図8は、従来のヒンジ装置の取付部を断面としたヒンジ装置の平面図である。図9は、従 来のヒンジ装置の取付部を断面としたヒンジ装置の一部断面正面図である。図10は、従 来のヒンジ装置の取付部を断面としたフリーストップ状態を示した平面図である。

このヒンジ装置50は、シャフト51と、このシャフト51の一端部に一体に設けられた 固定カム52と、シャフト51に対して軸方向へ摺動可能かつ回転可能に取り付けられた スライディングカム53と、このスライディングカム53と固定カム52との互いの対向 面に設けられたカム機構54と、シャフト51に対しスライディングカム53の回転を拘 50 東させつつ回転可能に取り付けられた回り止め付きのケース体55と、このケース体55 をシャフト51から抜け出ないように係止する係止リング56による係止手段と、スライ ディングカム53を固定カム52側へ圧接させるために、シャフト51に環巻きさせつつ ケース体55とスライディングカム53との間に弾設した圧縮スプリング57による弾性 手段とを有し、カム機構54は、互いに圧接嵌合し合う凹部58と凸部59で構成されて おり、この各凹部58と凸部59は互いに一方の凹部58或は凸部59と圧設する頂部5 9a. 59aと底部58b. 58bを有している。

そのため、構成部品の少ない簡単な構成で、相対的に開閉される固定側の本体Bと可動側 の蓋体Cを所定の開閉角度から安定的に任意の角度で停止 (これを、フリーストップとい 10 う。)できる小型のヒンジ装置50を提供できるので、特にに2つ折りタイプの携帯用電 話機の開閉用ヒンジとして採用され得るものであった。

[0013]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

しかしながら、上述した蓋体Cをワンタッチ操作で展開できるヒンジユニット46は、第 1カム体40と第2カム体41との突き合わせ面に形成されているカム面42がその周方 向に等間隔に2箇所配置された谷部42bと頂部42aとからなる同一の形状を呈してい る。そして、蓋体Cの停止位置は、蓋体Cが閉じている全閉状態では、第1カム体40の カム面42の頂部42aと、第2カム体41のカム面42の谷部42bとが、噛み合って おらず、カム面42同士が全面に亘って当接していない。また、蓋体Cが全開位置の場合 20 には、第1カム体40及び第2カム体41のカム面42の頂部42a,42a同士が突き 合う位置で第1カム体40と第2カム体41との動きが停止する。

つまり、第1カム体40及び第2カム体41のカム面42の形状が蓋体Cを全閉か全開の 二者択一の位置で停止させるものとして形成されているため、本体Bに対する蓋体Cの展 開角度を任意の位置で停止させることができない。したがって、この従来のヒンジユニッ ト46を使用した携帯電話の場合には、蓋体Cが本体Bの表示画面とは別個独立して配置 されている押釦スイッチ部のみのカバーとして使用するといった用途に限定される。その ため、本体Bと蓋体Cとがほぼ等しい大きさであって本体Bの表示画面を覆い尽くすよう な蓋体Cからなるデザインの場合のように、蓋体Cを本体Bに対して任意の角度で保持さ 30 せるといった表示画面の見え方に拘るようなものには、使用できなかった。

また、上述した本体Bに対する蓋体Cの展開角度を任意の位置に保持できるヒンジ装置5 0は、カム機構54が互いに圧接嵌合し合う凹部58と凸部59で構成されており、この 各凹部 5 8 と凸部 5 9 は互いに一方の凹部 5 8 或は凸部 5 9 と圧設する頂部 5 9 a , 5 9 aと底部58b,58bを有しているため、固定カム52の頂部59aにスライディング カム53の頂部59aが接触している状態(本体Bと蓋体Cとの挟角が20~150度) では、蓋体Cを開く場合も閉じる場合も変わりなく、蓋体Cが本体Bに対して任意の角度 で停止できるフリーストップ状態となる。

そのため、この従来のヒンジ装置50を使用した携帯電話では、通話等通常の使用状態に おいてはほぼ全開の位置で使用するにも拘わらず、全開位置まで開くために、フリースト ップの停止力に逆らって人手で蓋体Cを開くといった動作が必要となり、取り扱いが煩わ しいという問題があった。

そこで、この発明は、上記問題を解決すべく、本体に対して蓋体が閉じた折り畳み状態か ら使用状態の蓋体が最大に開いた全開位置に迅速に展開でき、全開位置から折り畳み位置 までの間の所定角度内にあっては蓋体を任意の位置で固定することで使用者の好みの位置 で保持できる、使い勝手のよい多段階展開装置を提供することを課題としている。 [0018]

40

【課題を解決するための手段】

以上のような課題を解決すべく、請求項1に記載の発明は、本体と蓋体とが少なくとも一 対の連結部によって折り畳み自在に連結され、前記蓋体を本体に対して折り畳んだ位置で 係止状態となるロック手段を備えたヒンジ装置であって、前記折り畳んだ位置の係止状態 を解除した場合に前記蓋体が全開位置まで一気に展開し、該全開位置から折り畳む行程に あっては前記蓋体が前記本体に対して任意の角度で停止できるフリーストップ手段を有す ることを特徴としている。

請求項2に記載の発明は、請求項1に記載の構成に加えて、前記連結部のいずれか一方の 連結部に固定される固定部と、該固定部に回動可能で同軸上に設けられ、かつ他方の連結 10 部の周方向に係止されて配設される可動部と、前記蓋体を展開させる方向に付勢すると共 に前記可動部を前記固定部から軸方向に離開させるように付勢する付勢手段とを有し、前 記フリーストップ手段は、前記蓋体を折り畳んだ位置と全開位置とで係止状態にあり、前 記蓋体を折り畳んだ位置における前記ロック手段の係止状態を解除する回転力が前記フリ ーストップ手段の係止状態を解除する回転力よりも小さくて前記フリーストップ手段の係 止状態を維持したまま前記蓋体が前記全開位置まで展開され、前記蓋体の全開位置におけ る前記フリーストップ手段の係止状態を解除する回転力が前記ロック手段の係止状態を解 除する回転力よりも小さくて前記ロック手段の係止状態を維持したまま前記蓋体が折り畳 まれることを特徴としている。

請求項3に記載の発明は、請求項1又は2に記載の構成に加えて、前記フリーストップ手 段は、平面に凹部を設けたカム面を有する第1カムと、前記凹部と係合する凸部を設けた 第2カムとで構成され、前記凸部が前記凹部との係合が解かれた状態では前記凸部が前記 平面上を摺動することを特徴としている。

請求項4に記載の発明は、請求項1乃至3のいずれか1つに記載の構成に加えて、前記ロ ック手段は、周方向に沿って山部と谷部とが繰り返されるカム面を有する一対のカム部材 からなるカム機構を構成し、前記山部及び前記谷部のカム面の左右の傾斜度が異なること を特徴としている。

請求項5に記載の発明は、請求項4に記載の構成に加えて、前記ねじりコイルバネの一端 が該ねじりコイルバネに接する前記一方のカム部材の山部に埋め込まれていることを特徴 としている。

[0023] 請求項6に記載の発明は、請求項2乃至5のいずれか1つの構成に加えて、前記固定部の 軸方向に挿入可能でかつ回転不能に取り付けることのできる軸部材を有し、該軸部材上に 前記フリーストップ手段、ロック手段及び付勢手段を配置すると共に、該軸部材の先端部 には前記可動部の壁面を貫通して前記可動部の外側に配置される抜け止め部材が係合でき る係合部を有していることを特徴としている。

請求項7に記載の発明は、請求項6の構成に加えて、前記ねじりコイルバネの他端が前記 軸部材の先端部に挿入されていることを特徴としている。

請求項8に記載の発明は、請求項6又は7の構成に加えて、前記抜け止め部材には、意匠 キャップが取り付けられる係合突起が設けられていることを特徴としている。

[0026]

【発明の実施の形態】 以下、この発明の実施の形態について図面に従って説明するが、この発明はこの実施の形 熊に限定されるものではない。

[0027]

50

40

20

図1乃至4には、この発明の多段階展開ヒンジ装置に係る実施の形態を示す。

図1は、この発明の多段階展開ヒンジ装置に係る実施の形態を携帯電話に適用した場合の 縦断面図である。

[0029]

携帯電話の場合には、送話部が本体2に相当し、受話部が蓋体3に相当し、本体2と蓋体 3とは少なくとも一対の連結部4 a, 4 bによって折り畳み自在に連結されている。

連結部4a,4bのうちの一方の連結部4aには、多段階展開ヒンジ装置1の固定部5が 固定されており、他方の連結部4 bには、固定部5に回動可能で同軸上に設けられ、かつ 10 周方向に係止された状態の可動部6が配設されている。

また、多段階展開ヒンジ装置1には、蓋体3を展開させる方向に付勢すると共に、可動部 6を固定部5から軸方向に離開させるように付勢する付勢手段を有している。具体的には 付勢手段としてねじりコイルバネ7が使用されており、後述するフリーストップ手段やロ ック手段の保持力を高めるため、その補助として圧縮コイルバネ8を併用している。

固定部5と可動部6との間には、平面9に凹部10を設けたカム面11を有する略円板状 の第1カム12と、凹部10と係合する凸部13を設けた略円板状の第2カム14とで構 成されるフリーストップカム15が設けられている。このフリーストップカム15は、第 ²⁰ 2カム14の凸部13が第1カム12の凹部10との係合が解除された状態では、凸部1 3が平面9上を摺動するようになっており、この状態では第1カム12と第2カム14と がねじりコイルバネ7や圧縮コイルバネ8により互いに圧接状態にあるため、第1カム1 2と第2カム14との間に摩擦力が発生する。そのため、この摩擦力に抗する回転力が第 1カム12又は第2カム14に作用しない限り、そのままの状態を維持することとなる。 つまり、第2カム14の凸部13が第1カム12の平面9上を摺動する区間では、第1カ ム12と第2カム14とねじりコイルパネ7とにより、蓋体3が本体2に対して任意の角 度で保持できるフリーストップ機能を備えたフリーストップ手段が構成されている。

第1カム12と第2カム14とは、フリーストップを実現するための重要な機能部品であ 30 り、その品質を維持するためには両者の耐摩耗性が高いことが望ましい。そのため、多段 階展開ヒンジ装置 1 としての小型化と耐摩耗性とを実現するためには、凹部 1 0 や凸部 1 3をその本体と一体に成形できるステンレス等の金属で第1カム12と第2カム14とを 製作することが望ましく、金属に代わりセラミック成形品等を採用してもよい。

多段階展開ヒンジ装置 1 には、フリーストップ手段の他に、蓋体 3 が本体 2 と重なるよう に折り畳んだ位置と全開位置とで係止状態を保持するロック手段が設けられている。

[0035]

図示した実施の形態では、ロック手段として周方向に沿って山部17と谷部18とが繰り 返されるカム面19a,19bを有する略円柱状の一対のカム部材20a,20bからな 40 るカム機構21を使用している。そして、山部17及び谷部18のカム面19a,19b は、その左右で傾斜度が異なっており、左回転と右回転とで一対のカム部材20a,20 bの噛み合いを解除するために必要な回転力に差を持たせるようにしている。そして、傾 斜度の急なカム面19aは、ねじりコイルバネ7の回転力の付勢力が最大となる蓋体3を 折り畳んだ位置の係止状態を保持する場合に使用し、傾斜度の緩やかなカム面19bは、 ねじりコイルバネ7の回転方向の付勢力が最小となる蓋体3の全開位置の係止状態を保持 する場合に使用することで、それぞれの位置における保止状態を解除するに必要な回転力 とねじりコイルバネ7による回転力の付勢力とのバランスを調整することが可能となる。

つまり、傾斜度の急なカム面19aをねじりコイルバネ7の回転力の付勢力が最大となる 50

蓋体3を折り畳んだ位置の係止状態を保持する場合に使用し、傾斜度の緩やかなカム面1 9 bをねじりコイルバネ?の回転方向の付勢力が最小となる蓋体3全開位置の係止状態を 保持する場合に使用することで、それぞれの位置における保止状態を解除するに必要な回 転力とねじりコイルバネ7による回転力の付勢力とのバランスが取り易くなる。

可動部 6 は略円筒状をしており、その内面には一方のカム部材 2 0 a の外周部に設けられ たガイド片22が軸方向に移動可能な案内溝23が設けられており、ねじりコイルバネ7 と圧縮コイルバネ8とが収容されている。また、他方のカム部材20bのカム面19a. 19bと反対側には第1カム部材12が嵌合して一体化されており、他方のカム部材20 bと第1カム部材12とは軸部材30に対して同一の回転運動をする。

10

ねじりコイルバネ7の一端24は、ねじりコイルバネ7に接する一方のカム部材20aの 山部17に設けた穴25に入り込むように組み付けられ、省スペースを実現すると同時に 一方のカム部材20aに回転方向の付勢力が働くようになっている。

固定部5は中央に角孔26を有した略円板状をしており、一方の面に第2カム14が嵌合 して一体化されており、他方の面には本体 2 の連結部 4 a に取り付けるための弾性係止片 27が突設されている。

そこで、多段階展開ヒンジ装置1を組み立てる場合には、一端にフランジ28を有し他端 20 に縮径した係合部29を有するする略棒状の軸部材30を、固定部5の弾性係止片27側 から係合部29側を挿入し、第2カム14、第1カム12、他方のカム部材20b、一方 のカム部材20a、ねじりコイルパネ7、圧縮コイルパネ8を貫通し、最後に可動部6の 壁面31を貫通させ、この壁面31の外側に突出した保合部29に抜け止め部材32を係 合させればよい。抜け止め部材32には、携帯電話の外観の一部を構成する意匠キャップ 33が取り付けられるよう、外周に係合突起34が設けられている。

軸部材30には、フランジ28に連続する角柱部35が形成されており、この角柱部35 に連続する第1カム12、他方のカム部材20b、一方のカム部材20aの回転軸となる 円柱部36を有している。また、円柱部36の先端部には係合部29より僅かにフランジ 30 28側の位置まで連続した、円柱部34の直径方向に貫通する溝37が形成されている。 この溝37には、一端22が一方のカム部材20aの山部17に埋め込まれたねじりコイ ルバネ7の他端38が挿入されており、固定部5に対して一方のカム部材20a及び可動 部6に回転方向の付勢力を与えることができるようになっている。

フリーストップカム15は、蓋体3を折り畳んだ位置と全開位置とで係止状態を保ち、蓋 体3を折り畳んだ位置におけるロック手段としてのカム機構21の係止状態を解除する回 転力がフリーストップカム15の保止状態を解除する回転力よりも小さく設計されている 。これにより、折り畳んだ位置から全開位置まで蓋体3を展開する際には、フリーストッ プカム 15 の係止状態を維持したまま蓋体 3 が全開位置まで展開される。また、蓋体 3 の 40 全開位置におけるフリーストップカム15の係止状態を解除する回転力がロック手段とし てのカム機構 2 1 の係止状態を解除する回転力よりも小さく設計されている。これにより 、カム機構21の係止状態を維持したまま蓋体3が本体2に重なる折り畳んだ位置に復帰 する。

以下、この発明の実施の形態に係る多段階展開ヒンジ装置1の使用方法について説明する

多段階展開ヒンジ装置 1 が組み込まれた携帯電話の場合には、受話部である蓋体 3 に展開 する方向の回転力を加えて、折り畳んだ位置のカム機構21の係止状態を解除した場合に 50

30

は、ねじりコイルバネ7の軸方向の付勢力に抗してカム部材20 a, 20 bの山部17が 谷部18から抜け出すと同時にねじりコイルバネ7の回転方向の付勢力によりカム部材2 0 a , 2 0 b が回転し、カム部材 2 0 a , 2 0 b の山部 1 7 がほぼ反対側に位置する谷部 18に入り込みことで再びカム機構21が係止状態となる。これにより、折り畳んだ位置 にあった蓋体3は全開位置まで一気に展開することになる。

[0045]

そして、蓋体3を全開位置から折り畳む方向の回転力を加えた場合には、この折り畳む行 程では、カム機構21の係止状態が維持されたまま、ねじりコイルバネ7の軸方向の付勢 力に抗してフリーストップカム15の第1カム12の凹部10から第2カム14の凸部1 3が離脱し、第2カム14の凸部13が第1カム12の平面9上を摺動するが、この状態 10 では第1カム12と第2カム14とが付勢手段7により互いに圧接状態にあるため、第1 カム12と第2カム14との間に働く摩擦力により、蓋体3を折り畳む方向の回転力を解 除した箇所で蓋体が停止しその状態が保持されること(フリーストップ)となる。

[0046]

さらに、この状態から蓋体3を折り畳んで行くと、ねじりコイルバネ7の回転方向の付勢 力に抗して蓋体3が折り畳んだ位置に近づき、折り畳んだ位置の寸前でねじりコイルバネ 7の軸方向の付勢力によりフリーストップカム15の第1カム12の凹部10に第2カム 14の凸部13が保合してフリーストップカム15が保止状態となり、送話部である本体 2に受話部である蓋体3が重なった折り畳み状態となる。これにより、受話部である蓋体 3を送話部である本体2に対して重なる折り畳んだ位置では、ロック手段としてのカム機 20 構21の係止状態を解除するだけの受話部である蓋体3を展開する方向の回転力が作用し ない限り、受話部である蓋体3は開くことがなくその状態を保持することができる。

[0047]

なお、上述した実施の形態では、蓋体3を展開する場合に蓋体3の一部に指を掛けて、多 段階展開ヒンジ装置1の軸心を中心にした展開方向に向かう回転力を与える構造としたが 、より展開操作を簡単なものとするために、予め折り畳んだ位置で多段階展開ヒンジ装置 1の軸方向に張り出すようにした押釦(図示せず)を設けおき、蓋体3を展開する場合に はこの押釦を軸方向に押し込むことでロック手段を解除するといったワンタッチ操作によ るロック解除機構を付加することも可能である。

[0048] さらに、上述した実施の形態では、多段階展開ヒンジ装置1を組み込むものとして携帯電 話の例を説明したが、携帯電話に限らず、本体と蓋体とが展開可能に連結される物品であ ればこの発明を同様に適用できることは当然に可能である。

[0049]

【発明の効果】 以上説明してきたように、請求項1に記載の発明によれば、折り畳んだ位置の係止状態を 解除した場合に蓋体が全開位置まで一気に展開し、該全開位置から折り畳む行程にあって は蓋体が本体に対して任意の角度で停止できるフリーストップ手段を有するので、本体に 対して蓋体が閉じた折り畳み状態から使用状態の蓋体が最大に開いた全開位置に迅速に展 開でき、全開位置から折り畳み位置までの間の所定角度内にあっては蓋体を任意の位置で 40 固定することできるため、蓋体を全開位置以外の使用者の好みの位置で保持できるから、 使用者にとって使い勝手のよい多段階展開装置を提供できる。

[0050]

請求項2に記載の発明によれば、フリーストップ手段は、蓋体を折り畳んだ位置と全開位 置とで係止状態にあり、蓋体を折り畳んだ位置におけるロック手段の係止状態を解除する 回転力がフリーストップ手段の係止状態を解除する回転力よりも小さくてフリーストップ 手段の係止状態を維持したまま蓋体が全開位置まで展開され、蓋体の全開位置におけるフ リーストップ手段の係止状態を解除する回転力がロック手段の係止状態を解除する回転力 よりも小さくてロック手段の係止状態を維持したまま蓋体が折り畳まれるので、フリース トップ手段のフリーストップ機能が蓋体を折り畳むときだけ働き、蓋体を折り畳んでいる 50 状態では蓋体を強制的に展開させようとする外力が加わらない限りロック手段の係止状態 が維持されこととなるから、請求項1の効果に加えて、無駄な操作を必要としない合理的 な多段階展開ヒンジ装置を提供することができる。

[0051]

請求項3に記載の発明によれば、フリーストップ手段は、平面に凹部を設けたカム面を有 する第1カムと、凹部と係合する凸部を設けた第2カムとで構成され、凸部が凹部との係 合が解かれた状態では凸部が平面上を摺動するので、請求項1又は2の効果に加え、僅か なスペースでフリーストップ機能を実現し得る。

[0052]

請求項4に記載の発明によれば、ロック手段は、周方向に沿って山部と谷部とが繰り返さ 10 れるカム面を有する一対のカム部材からなるカム機構を構成し、山部及び谷部のカム面の 左右の傾斜度が異なるので、左右の回転方向でロック手段の係止状態を解除するに必要な 回転力が異なるから、傾斜度の急なカム面をねじりコイルバネの回転力の付勢力が最大と なる蓋体を折り畳んだ位置の係止状態を保持する場合に使用し、傾斜度の緩やかなカム面 をねじりコイルバネの回転方向の付勢力が最小となる蓋体3全開位置の係止状態を保持す る場合に使用することで、請求項1乃至3のいずれか1つに記載の効果に加え、それぞれ の位置における係止状態を解除するに必要な回転力とねじりコイルバネによる回転力の付 勢力とのバランスが取り易くなる。

[0053]

請求項5に記載の発明によれば、付勢手段はねじりコイルバネであって、該ねじりコイル 20 バネの一端が該ねじりコイルバネに接する一方のカム部材の山部に埋め込まれているので 一方のカム部材に回転する付勢力を与える構造を実現するために新たな空間を設ける必 要がないから、請求項4に記載の効果に加え、多段階展開ヒンジ装置のさらなる小型化が 実現できる。

[0054]

請求項6に記載の発明によれば、固定部の軸方向に挿入可能でかつ回転不能に取り付ける ことのできる軸部材を有し、該軸部材上にフリーストップ手段、ロック手段及び付勢手段 を配置すると共に、該軸部材の先端部は可動部の壁面を貫通して可動部の外側に配置され る抜け止め部材が係合できる係合部を有しているので、一方向から順次組み立てることが できるため、請求項2乃至5のいずれか1つに記載の効果に加え、組立が容易なものとな ³⁰ る。

[0055]

()

請求項7に記載の発明によれば、ねじりコイルバネの他端が軸部材の先端部に挿入されて いるので、ねじりコイルバネの他端を組み付けるための新たな空間を設ける必要がないか ら、請求項6に記載の効果に加え、多段階展開ヒンジ装置のさらなる小型化が実現できる

[0056]

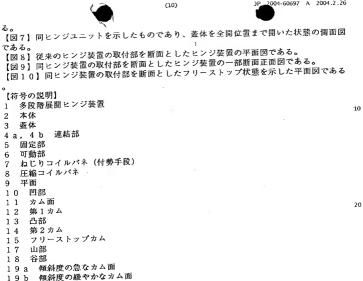
請求項8に記載の発明によれば、抜け止め部材には、意匠キャップが取り付けられる係合 突起が設けられているので、意匠キャップの取付も容易なものとなるから、請求項6又は 7に記載の効果に加え、携帯電話等の機器本体に組み込んだ場合にも意匠的に違和感のな いものとなる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【図1】この発明の多段階展開ヒンジ装置に係る実施の形態を携帯電話に適用した場合の 縦断面図である。
- 【図2】 同実施の形態を分解した一部断面の正面図である。
- 【図3】同実施の形態を固定部側から見た分解斜視図である。
- 【図4】 同実施の形態を可動部側から見た分解斜視図である。 【図5】 従来のヒンジユニットを示したものであり、蓋体を本体に折り畳んだ状態(蓋体
- が閉じた状態)の側面図である。 【図6】同ヒンジユニットを示したものであり、蓋体を途中まで開いた状態の側面図であ 50

30

40



25 穴

22 ガイド片 23 案内溝

2.4

20a 一方のカム部材 20 b 他方のカム部材

21 カム機構 (ロック手段)

ねじりコイルバネの一端

2 7 弹性係止片 2.8 フランジ

29 係合部

30 軸部材

3 1 壁面

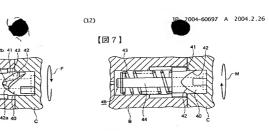
32 抜け止め部材

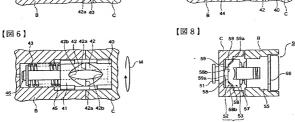
33 意匠キャップ

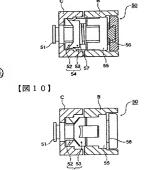
34 係合突起

37 溝

ねじりコイルバネの他端 3.8







【図5】

【図9】